AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spark plug, comprising:

a partially cylindrical insulator element;

a housing enclosing the partially cylindrical insulator element; ~~and~~

a connection including at least one material bond by which the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing are connected to one another; and

an interlayer produced prior to the connection and by which the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing are connected with one another, wherein:

the interlayer is one of applied and attached to the partially cylindrical insulator element;

the interlayer is attached to the housing using at least one material bond;

a gap is located between the housing and the interlayer in a region of a section lying closer to a base part of the partially cylindrical insulator element; and

the interlayer is connected to the housing in a second section further away from the base part.

2. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part, and

a diameter further from a combustion chamber of the partially cylindrical insulator element at least one of remains approximately equal and increases with an increasing distance from a free end of the base part in an entire region surrounded by the housing.

3. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part, and

an inner diameter of the housing in a region of the connection at least one of remains the same and increases with an increasing distance from a free end of the base part.

4. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part, and

a diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element in a region on a side further from the base part adjoining a region surrounded by the housing is approximately equal to a largest diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element in a region surrounded by the housing.

5. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a base part,

the housing includes at least one tubular section in which a diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element is only slightly smaller than an inner diameter of the housing at the same distance to a free end of the base part, and

a connection along a circumference of the partially cylindrical insulator element closes a gap between the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing.

6. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 5, further comprising at least one of:

a first tubular section arranged near a free end of the base part; and

a second tubular section arranged further away from the base part.

7. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the connection includes at least one of a soldered connection, a welded connection, and an adhesive connection.

8. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the housing includes at least one tubular section, and

a diameter of the partially cylindrical insulator element is slightly larger than an inner diameter of the housing, when the partially cylindrical insulator element

is not in place, at the same distance to a free end of a base part of the partially cylindrical insulator element.

9. (Previously Presented) The spark plug according to claim 8, wherein:

the connection further includes a friction-lock connection aligned in a radial direction, and the friction-lock connection is produced by an installation of the partially cylindrical insulator element into the housing, the housing having a higher temperature than the partially cylindrical insulator element at a time of the installation.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended). The spark plug according to claim [[10]] 1, wherein:

the interlayer extends into regions outside the connection.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The spark plug according to claim [[12]] 1, wherein:

another gap is located between the partially cylindrical insulator element and the interlayer in a region of a third section of the interlayer further away from the base part.

14. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the partially cylindrical insulator element includes a ceramic, and

a surface of the ceramic is treated in a region of the connection such that a load capacity of the connection is increased.

15. (Original) The spark plug according to claim 1, wherein:

the connection forms at least a significant portion of a cohesion of the housing and the partially cylindrical insulator element.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a spark plug that includes a partially cylindrical insulator element, a housing enclosing the partially cylindrical insulator

element, and a connection including at least one of at least one material bond and a friction-lock connection aligned in a radial direction and by which the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing are connected to one another, the method comprising the step of:

one of welding and soldering the housing to the partially cylindrical insulator element.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a spark plug that includes a partially cylindrical insulator element, a housing enclosing the partially cylindrical insulator element, and a connection including at least one of at least one material bond and a friction-lock connection aligned in a radial direction and by which the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing are connected to one another, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting the partially cylindrical insulator element and the housing with one another using an interlayer produced prior to the connection;

one of applying and attaching the interlayer to the partially cylindrical insulator element; and

attaching the interlayer to the housing in accordance with the at least one of the at least one material bond and the friction-lock connection.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

shrink-fitting the housing onto the partially cylindrical insulator element.